General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 22

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.61 and Add.1)*]

56/218. Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[1]

Reaffirming its resolutions 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the New Agenda, and 51/32 of 6 December 1996, which states that the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda will be conducted in 2002,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 48/214 of 23 December 1993, 49/142 of 23 December 1994, 53/90 of 7 December 1998 and 55/216 of 21 December 2000 on the implementation of the New Agenda,

Reaffirming further its resolutions 54/234 of 22 December 1999 and 55/217 of 21 December 2000 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, and recalling its requests in resolutions 54/234 and 55/216 to conduct the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda and related initiatives on the basis of a report by the Secretary-General on an independent high-level quality evaluation,

Mindful of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on the role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development, adopted on 18 July 2001,[2] with particular reference to paragraph 26, and the agreed conclusions 1999/2 adopted by the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1999, on coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the theme "Development of Africa:

[1] A/56/270.
[2] A/56/3, chap. III, para. 29. For the final text see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development",[3]

Mindful also of the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,[4] in particular paragraph 60,

1. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc committee of the whole of the General Assembly as the most appropriate mechanism to conduct the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and related initiatives;

2. *Decides also* to convene an organizational session of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole in June 2002 for one working day to consider and adopt the necessary arrangements for its work regarding, inter alia, the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the New Agenda and related initiatives on Africa, and decides that the Ad Hoc Committee should establish its bureau at the highest appropriate level, to be composed of a chairman, the President of the General Assembly, assisted by three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, appointed by the President in consultation with Member States;

3. *Decides further* that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole should meet in substantive session for a period of five working days, from 9 to 13 September 2002, and for three working days from 7 to 9 October 2002, during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, to conduct the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the New Agenda and related initiatives on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the independent high-level quality evaluation, as mandated in Assembly resolutions 54/234 and 55/216 and in agreed conclusions 1999/2 of the Economic and Social Council,[3] and on other documents that the Ad Hoc Committee will have decided to make use of at its organizational session in June 2002, as well as on proposals by the Secretary-General on the modalities of the United Nations future engagement with the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

4. *Decides* that a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly should be held on 16 September 2002 to consider how to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in line with paragraph 5 of the ministerial declaration of the 2001 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council,[2] which called on the United Nations system and the international community to support the New African Initiative, now called the New Partnership for Africa's Development, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held at Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001,[5] and that preparations for the plenary meeting should be made during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly;

5. *Urges* Member States and organs and bodies of the United Nations system to ensure that they are represented at the highest appropriate level on, and to participate actively in the work of, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole and in the plenary meeting;

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[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1), chap. V, para. 6.

[4] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

[5] See A/56/457, annex I, AHG/Decl. 1 (XXXVII).

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the organs and organizations of the United Nations system concerned, to ensure the necessary preparations for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, including on the plenary meeting, and on the implementation of the present resolution.

91st plenary meeting
21 December 2001

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 January 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 38

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.63/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

56/219. Assistance in mine action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 of 23 December 1994, 50/82 of 14 December 1995, 51/149 of 13 December 1996 and 52/173 of 18 December 1997, on assistance in mine clearance, and its resolutions 53/26 of 17 November 1998, 54/191 of 17 December 1999 and 55/120 of 6 December 2000, on assistance in mine action, all adopted without a vote,

Considering mine action to be an important component of United Nations humanitarian and development activities,

Reaffirming its deep concern at the tremendous humanitarian and development problems caused by the presence of mines and other unexploded ordnance that constitute an obstacle to the return of refugees and other displaced persons, to humanitarian aid operations and to reconstruction and economic development, as well as to the restoration of normal social conditions, and that have serious and lasting social and economic consequences for the populations of mine-affected countries,

Bearing in mind the serious threat that mines and other unexploded ordnance pose to the safety, health and lives of local civilian populations, as well as of personnel participating in humanitarian, peacekeeping and rehabilitation programmes and operations,

Reiterating its dismay at the high number of victims of mines, especially among civilian populations, including women and children, and recalling in this context Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1995/79 of 8 March 1995,[1] 1996/85 of 24 April 1996,[2] 1997/78 of 18 April 1997,[3] 1998/76 of 22 April 1998,[4] 1999/80 of 28 April 1999,[5] 2000/85 of 27 April 2000[6] and 2001/75 of 25 April

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.
[2] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/1996/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.
[3] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. A.
[4] Ibid., *1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.
[5] Ibid., *1999, Supplement No. 3* (E/1999/23), chap. II, sect. A.
[6] Ibid., *2000, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/2000/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

2001,[7] on the rights of the child, and resolutions 1996/27 of 19 April 1996,[2] 1998/31 of 17 April 1998,[4] 2000/51 of 25 April 2000[6] and decision 1997/107 of 11 April 1997,[8] on the human rights of persons with disabilities,

Deeply alarmed by the number of mines that continue to be laid each year, as well as the presence of a large number of mines and other unexploded ordnance as a result of armed conflicts, and thus convinced of the necessity and urgency of a significant increase in mine-clearance efforts by the international community with a view to eliminating the threat of landmines to civilians as soon as possible,

Noting the inclusion in Amended Protocol II[9] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[10] of a number of provisions of importance for mine-clearance operations, notably the requirement of detectability, and provision of information and technical and material assistance necessary to remove or otherwise render ineffective existing minefields, mines and booby traps, and noting also that Amended Protocol II to the Convention entered into force on 3 December 1998,

Noting also the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the Second Annual Conference of the States Parties to Amended Protocol II to the Convention, held in Geneva from 11 to 13 December 2000,[11]

Recalling that the States parties at the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention declared their commitment to keep the provisions of the Protocol under review in order to ensure that the concerns regarding the weapons it covers are addressed, and that they would encourage the efforts of the United Nations and other organizations to address all problems related to landmines,

Noting that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction[12] entered into force on 1 March 1999 and that the Convention has been accepted formally by one hundred and twenty-two States and signed but not yet ratified by an additional twenty States,

Noting also the conclusions of the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Managua from 18 to 21 September 2001, taking note of the reaffirmed commitments that were made, among other things, to provide assistance for mine clearance and rehabilitation, the social and economic reintegration of mine victims and mine-awareness programmes and to eradicate anti-personnel mines, and taking note also of the work of the intersessional programme established by States parties to the Convention,

Stressing the need to convince mine-affected States to halt new deployments of anti-personnel mines in order to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of mine-clearance operations,

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[7] Ibid., *2001, Supplement No. 3* (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[8] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 3* (E/1997/23), chap. II, sect. B.

[9] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B.

[10] See *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

[11] See CCW/AP.II/CONF.2/1.

[12] See CD/1478.

Recognizing the important role that the international community, in particular States involved in the deployment of mines, can play in assisting mine clearance in mine-affected countries by providing necessary maps and information and appropriate technical and material assistance to remove or otherwise render ineffective existing minefields, mines and booby traps,

Concerned about the limited availability of safe and cost-effective mine-detection and mine-clearance equipment, as well as the need for effective global coordination in research and development to improve the relevant technology, and conscious of the need to promote further and more rapid progress in this field and to foster international technical cooperation to this end,

Concerned also about the limited availability of the technical, material and financial resources needed to meet the cost associated with mine-clearance activities in mine-affected countries,

Recognizing that, in addition to the primary role of States, the United Nations has an important role to play in the field of assistance in mine action,

Reaffirming the need to reinforce international cooperation in the area of mine action and to devote the necessary resources to that end,

Concerned about the critical financial situation of the Mine Action Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat,

Welcoming the mine-action coordination centres already established under the auspices of the United Nations, as well as the creation of international trust funds for mine clearance and other mine-action activities,

Noting with satisfaction the inclusion in the mandates of several peacekeeping operations of provisions relating to mine-action work carried out under the direction of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in the context of such operations,

Commending the action already taken by the United Nations system, donor and recipient Governments, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations to coordinate their efforts and seek solutions to the problems related to the presence of mines and other unexploded ordnance, as well as their assistance to victims of mines,

Welcoming the role of the Secretary-General in increasing public awareness of the problem of landmines,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance in mine action;[13]

2. *Calls*, in particular, for the continuation of the efforts of the United Nations, with the assistance of States and institutions as appropriate, to foster the establishment of mine-action capacities in countries where mines constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the local population or an impediment to social and economic development efforts at the national and local levels, emphasizes the importance of developing national mine-action capacities, and urges all Member States, in particular those that have the capacity to do so, to assist mine-affected countries in the establishment and development of national capacities in mine clearance, mine awareness and victim assistance;

[13] A/56/448 and Add.1 and 2.

20. *Encourages* Member States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations to continue to support ongoing activities to promote appropriate technology, as well as international operational and safety standards for humanitarian mine-action activities;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the progress achieved on all relevant issues outlined both in his previous reports to the Assembly on assistance in mine clearance and mine action and in the present resolution, including the progress made by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international and regional organizations as well as national programmes, and on the operation of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action and other mine-action programmes;

22. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to study how to secure a more sound financial basis for the Mine Action Service and to present options to this effect to the General Assembly;

23. *Also invites* the Secretary-General further to study ways and means of increasing public awareness of the impact of the problem of landmines and other unexploded ordnance on affected countries and to present options to this effect to the General Assembly;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Assistance in mine action".

91st plenary meeting
21 December 2001